UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/680,812   | 10/07/2003  | Ramesh Varadaraj     | RV-0319             | 4779             |
| 7590 05/23/2007<br>EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY |             |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| P.O. Box 900   |             |                      | WEBB, GREGORY E     |                  |
| Annandale, NJ 08801-0900                                       |             | •                    | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 1751                |                  |
|  |             |                      |                     |                  |
|  |             |                      | MAIL DATE           | DELIVERY MODE    |
|  |             |                      | 05/23/2007          | PAPER            |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office

Washington, D.C. 20231 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER

FORM PTO-2051 (Rev. 3/2001)

FILING DATE

FIRST NAMED APPLICANT

ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE

## DATE MAILED:

|                  |           | NOTICE OF IMPROPER REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)   |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| The              | ro        | equest for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 filed on $\frac{9/6/06}{}$ is per for reason(s) indicated below:   |
| 0                | 1.        | Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application for a design patent. Applicant may wish to consider filing a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) or a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(d).  |
|                  | 2.        | Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application that was filed before June 8, 1995. Applicant may wish to consider filing a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) or a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(d).   |
|                  |           | Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application unless prosecution in the application is closed. If the RCE was accompanied by a reply to a non-final Office action, the reply will be entered and considered under 37 CFR 1.111. If the RCE was <u>not</u> accompanied by a reply, the time period set forth in the last Office action continues to run from the mailing date of that action. |
|                  | 4.        | The request was not filed before payment of the issue fee, and no petition under 37 CFR 1.313 was granted. If this application has not yet issued as a patent, applicant may wish to consider filing either a petition under 37 CFR 1.313 to withdraw this application from issue, or a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b).   |
|                  | 5.        | The request was not filed before abandonment of the application. The application was abandoned, or proceedings terminated on Applicant may wish to consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 to revive this abandoned application.   |
|                  | 6.<br>,   | The request was not accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) as required by 37 CFR 1.114. Since the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the final Office action or notice of allowance continues to run from the mailing date of that action or notice.  |
| X                | 7.        | The request was not accompanied by a submission as required by 37 CFR 1.114. Since the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the final Office action or notice of allowance continues to run from the mailing date of that action or notice.   |
| the<br>rec       | ut<br>Jue | If a request for a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) has been filed in tility or plant application (including a previously filed CPA) that was filed on or after May 29, 2000, the lest for a CPA has been treated as a RCE because the CPA practice no longer applies to such cation. The constructive RCE, however, is improper for reason(s) indicated above.                              |
|                  |           | A copy of this notice <u>MUST</u> be returned with any reply.  |
| Dir              | ect       | the reply and any questions about this notice to:  |
| 2                | 5/        | Eland Water, Examining Group 1700  |
| ( <del>Z</del> 0 | 3)        | ' 272  |